

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the instant patent application. Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, 6-9, AND 14-16.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sorensen et al U.S. Patent No. 6,500,108. The examiner has asserted that claims 3, 6, 8, 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the amendment and the remarks, both the applicants and the examiner agree that all pending claims with this amendment are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the grounds of rejection and objection and issuance of the Notice of Allowance with respect to all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

During an April 14, 2004 examiner interview between Examiner Nikita R. Veniaminov and the undersigned applicants' attorney, Gerard P. Norton, the examiner agreed that the instant rejection and objection to certain claims would be obviated by the proposed amendment, and further that such an amendment would result in allowable claims 3-9 and 14-16.

If, however, for any reason the examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: April 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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